

# Conservation Security Program Self Assessment Tool

**Farmland Wildlife Habitat**

**Minnesota, 2005**

• **Sauk Watershed, Redeye Watershed, Root Watershed**

The purpose of this questionnaire is to provide a method for you to assess your Agricultural Operation for farmland wildlife habitat typical of your watershed. These questions help determine whether your entire Agricultural Operation meets the minimum CSP farmland wildlife requirements for tiers II and III.

**Directions:** Read and answer each question by checking **Yes** or **No**. If an identified habitat type is not present on the operation, answer **N/A**. A **NO** answer indicates that your Agricultural Operation may not meet the minimum farmland wildlife criteria for Tier III.

## A. Cropland Habitat – all fields in the offer

Do the acres you plan to enroll include cropland? (land in row crops or close-sown crops, forage crops that are in a rotation with row or close-sown crops, permanent hay land, horticultural cropland, orchards and vineyards).	<b>YES</b>	<b>N/A</b> (proceed to section B.)
1. Does your crop rotation or residue management fall into one of the following? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No fall tillage, residues undisturbed</li> <li>Conservation tillage with &gt;30% over-winter residue cover.</li> <li>Conservation tillage with &lt;30% over-winter residue cover and at least 2.0 acres of un-harvested grain food plot per 80 acres of cropland. Food plots must be located adjacent to existing grass, wetland or woody cover.</li> <li>Close sown legumes (alfalfa, clover etc.) in rotation (minimum 3 years).</li> </ul>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
2. For each numbered field, is 50% or more of the crop field within ¼ mile (1320') of escape/concealment cover (grass, woodland, hedge row, windbreaks, wetlands)?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
3. Are non-cropped wetland inclusions buffered by permanent vegetation at least 60' wide?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
4. For contiguous hay field(s) <u>greater than 10 acres in size</u> , does the management fall into one of the following categories? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Idle, or mowed after 7/1.</li> <li>Mowed prior to 7/1 with at least one of the following considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leave a minimum stubble height of 6" across entire field.</li> <li>Leave un-mown strips/blocks comprising at least 10% of the <u>total hay land acreage</u>. (60' minimum width).</li> <li>You have a minimum area equivalent to 10% of your <u>enrolled</u> cropland and/or pastureland (eg. 10 acres for every 100 acres of cropland and/or pastureland) maintained in grass, shrubs or wetlands which is managed to include wildlife considerations or left undisturbed until July 1 each year.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>

## B. Undrained Temporary – Seasonal – Semi permanent Wetlands Occurring Outside of Cropland Fields

Do the acres you plan to enroll include wetlands located on non-cropland (pasture, woodland etc)?	<b>YES</b>	<b>N/A</b> (proceed to section C.)
1. Are wetlands protected from annual cropping?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
2. Are wetlands protected from uncontrolled haying, grazing and fire?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
3. Are wetlands buffered by permanent vegetation averaging at least 60' wide?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
4. State and locally listed noxious weeds are absent or rare.	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>

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## C. Existing Farmstead Shelterbelt Habitat

Do the acres you plan to enroll include a farmstead(s) protected by an existing wooded shelterbelt?	<b>YES</b>	<b>N/A</b> (proceed to section D.)
1. Is the shelterbelt at least 1.0 acres in size?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
2. Is the shelterbelt comprised of at least 5 rows (or at least 50' wide)?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
3. Is the shelterbelt comprised of a combination of trees and fruiting shrubs?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
4. Are livestock excluded from the shelterbelt?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
5. State and locally listed noxious weeds are absent or rare.	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>

## D. Permanent Grassland Habitat – all grassland fields present on the offer

Do the acres you plan to enroll include permanent grassland habitat? (includes pasture, odd areas, RIM, roadsides, conservation practices, etc)	<b>YES</b>	<b>N/A</b> (proceed to section E.)
1. Does the management fall into one of the following categories? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undisturbed or managed according to a wildlife management plan.</li> <li>• Pasture meeting the minimum CSP quality criteria. (Refer to the pasture self-assessment)</li> </ul>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
2. Does each identified grass patch average at least 60' wide?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
3. Does each identified grass patch consist of one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mixed native grasses and broadleaved plants.</li> <li>• Mixed introduced grasses with broadleaved plants and/or legumes.</li> </ul>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
4. State and locally listed noxious weeds are absent or rare.	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>

## E. Incidental Upland Woodland >1.0 acres and Wooded Riparian Habitat.

Do the acres you plan to enroll include woodland habitat other than farmstead shelterbelts? (Small woodlots, wooded odd areas and stream or drainage corridors)	<b>YES</b>	<b>N/A</b> (proceed to signature block)
1. Do wooded riparian zones average greater than 75' wide (each side)?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
2. Are livestock excluded from the woodland?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
3. Is the stand comprised of at least 4 native tree species (at least one of which is an Oak, Hickory, Maple, Green Ash or Walnut) of differing size classes?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
4. Are there at least 2 dead or dying trees per acre of woodland?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
5. Is the ground cover comprised predominantly of native shrubs, grasses and/or broadleaved plants versus sparse vegetation?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
6. State and locally listed noxious weeds are absent or rare.	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>

**APPLICANT SIGNATURE**\_\_\_\_\_

**DATE**\_\_\_\_\_